



## Forest Health Protection Pacific Southwest Region



Date: October 27, 2009  
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To: Skip Ritter, California Forestry Lead, BLM California State Office

Subject: Biological Evaluation of BLM-King Range Proposal for FPM  
Suppression/Prevention Funds For Stream Monitoring (FHP Report No.  
N10-01)

It has come to my attention that Hank Harrison (Bureau of Land Management, Arcata Field Office) has submitted a FY2010 Forest Pest Management Prevention/Suppression project proposal for \$15,000 to cover some of the costs associated with conducting stream and field monitoring for *Phytophthora ramorum*, the causal agent of Sudden Oak Death, on the King Range National Conservation Area.

Two years ago, Greg Jennings (Bureau of Land Management, Arcata Field Office) submitted a similar proposal for \$13,000 for monitoring in 2007, but withdrew the proposal when he identified other sources of funding. In FY2006, Greg submitted a proposal and received \$13,000 for monitoring.

As I understand it, the current proposal is essentially be the same as the one that was previously funded, covering some of the costs of stream baiting and monitoring of five locations in the Mattole River watershed, which lies between the South Fork of the Eel River and the Pacific Ocean, paralleling the rugged Lost Coast. In addition, the BLM has been cooperating with the Mattole Restoration Council at additional stream monitoring sites on private land surrounding the King Range Conservation Area, providing a network of monitoring sites that covers all ownerships in the King Range and Gilham Butte areas.

The need for continued monitoring in the Mattole watershed has never been greater. Until recently, the nearest occurrence of *P. ramorum* was approximately 15 miles east in the Redway/Garberville area. However, last May, the pathogen was detected in stream water in Blue Slide Creek, a tributary to the Mattole River. This was the first detection in the Mattole watershed, and extends the range of *P. ramorum* to a whole new area.

Additional details on the biological situation supporting this project may be found in FHP Report #N07-04 and #N07-01, the biological evaluations in support of the SOD monitoring in 2006 and 2007. The information in the report is just as relevant now as when they were written.

In conclusion, I support Hank's proposal to continue the efforts of the BLM Arcata Field Office, and recommend that it receive funding in FY 2010.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this FPM Suppression/Prevention project proposal.

*/s/ Pete Angwin*

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